

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed October 22, 2004, and the references cited therein have been received and carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-7, 10-12, 18-19, and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vavrik in view of Waite, JP11-170203, or JP60-98602. Moreover, claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vavrik in view of Waite, JP11-170203, or JP60-98602 and further in view of Ando. Claims 16-17, 20-22, and 26 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By the above amendments, claims 1-7, 10-15, 18-19, 22, and 30-31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16 and 20 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore claims 16 and 20, together with dependent claims 17, 21, and 26 are now believed to be allowable.

Each issue raised in the Office Action mailed October 22, 2004, has been addressed and it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Wherefore, Applicant respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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